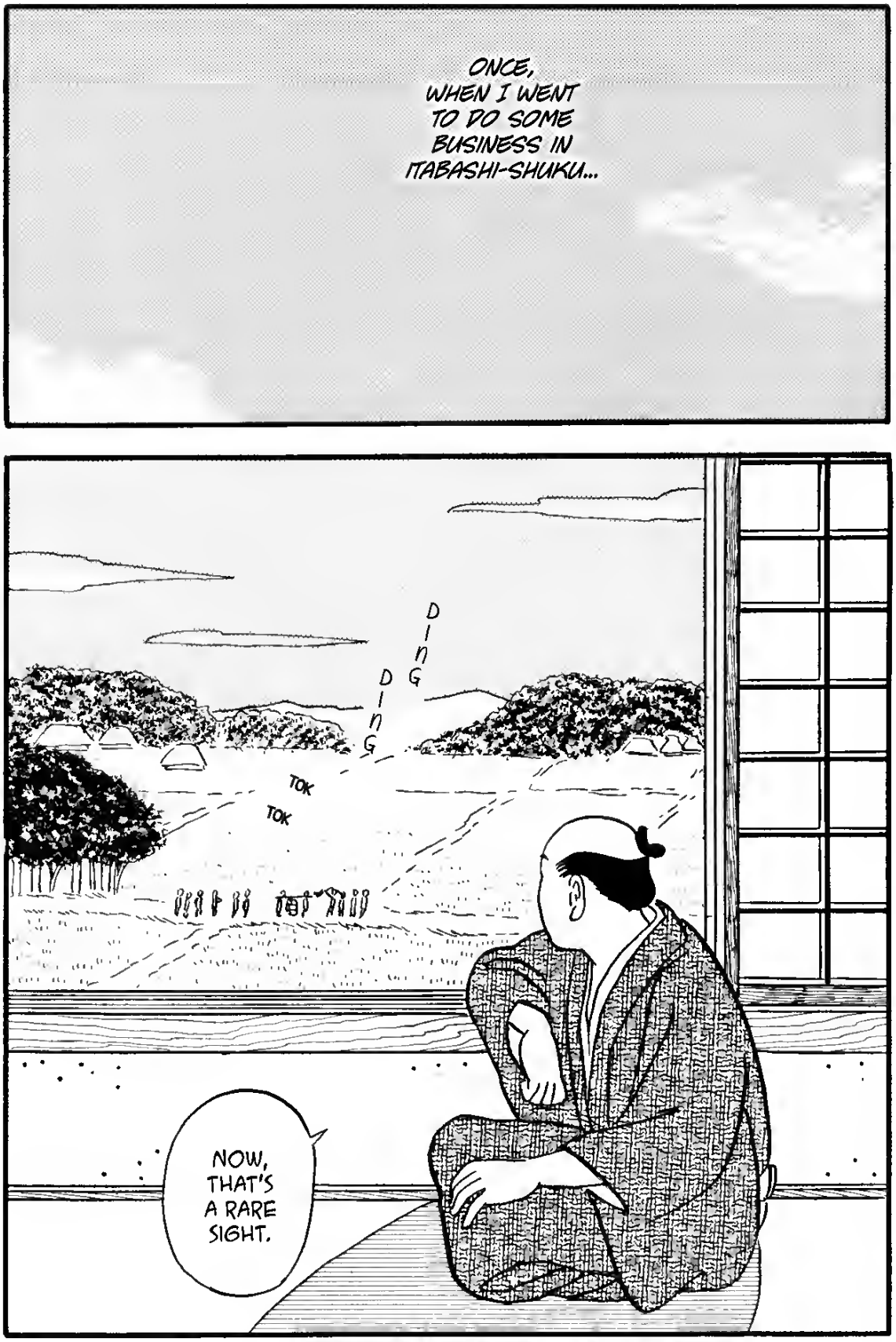
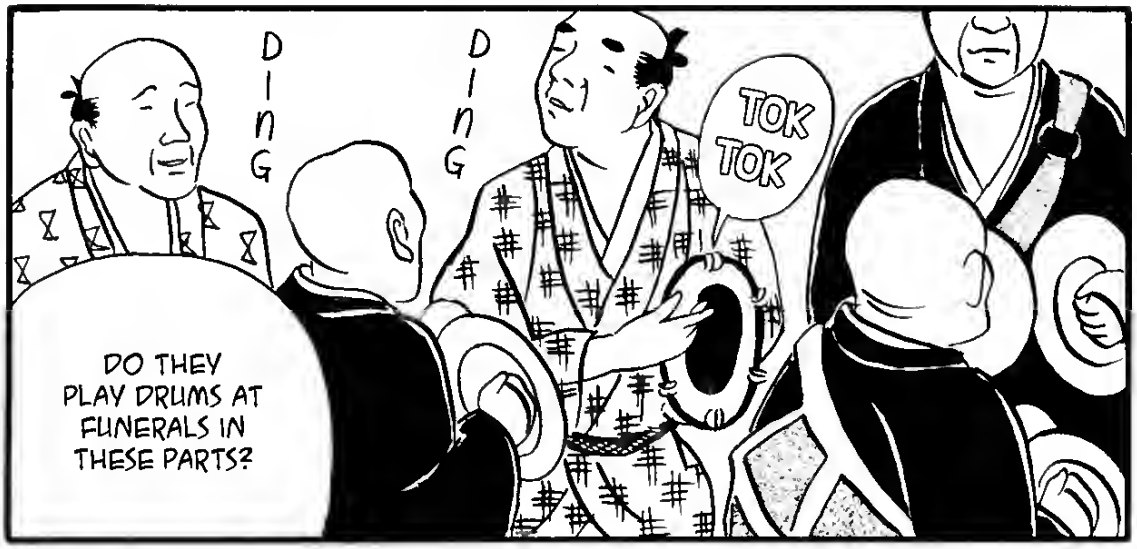
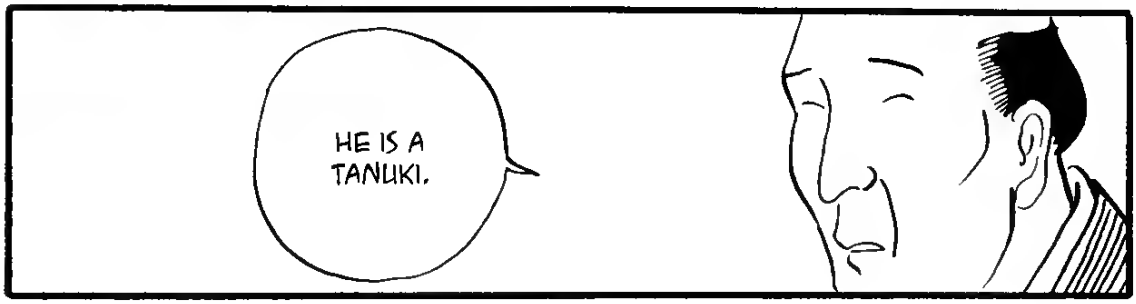
Tale 5

The Tanuki Monk

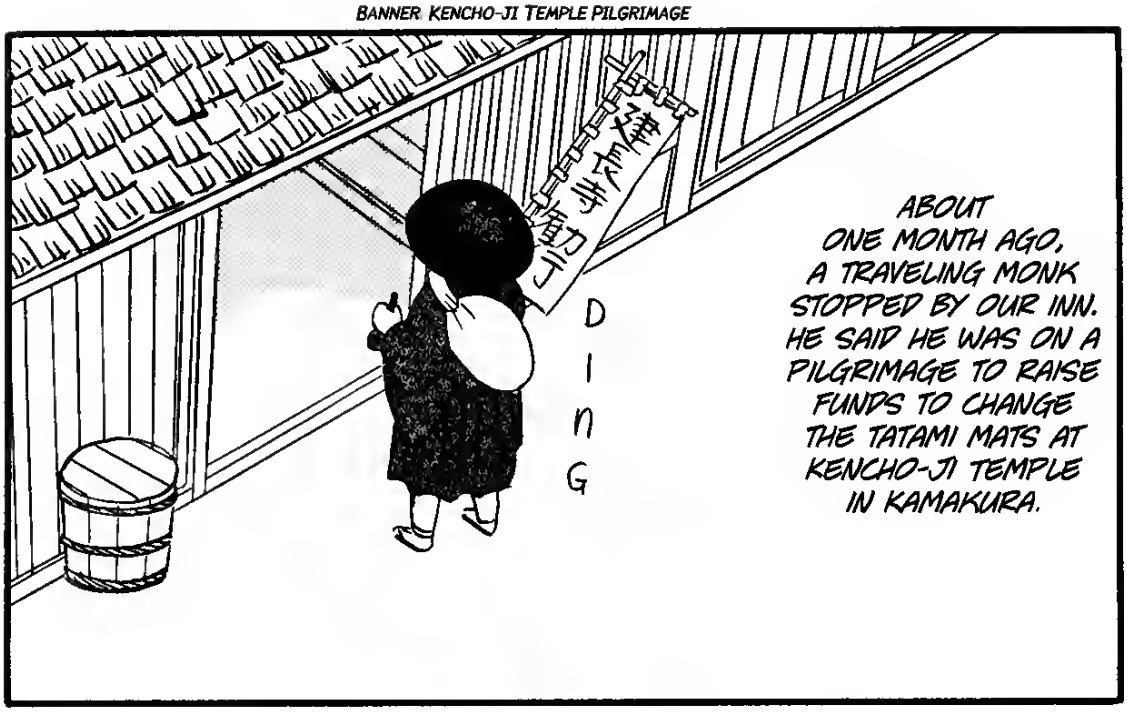

ONCE,
WHEN I WENT
TO DO SOME
BUSINESS IN
ITABASHI-SHUKU...
DING
DING
TOK
TOK
NOW,
THAT'S
A RARE
SIGHT.

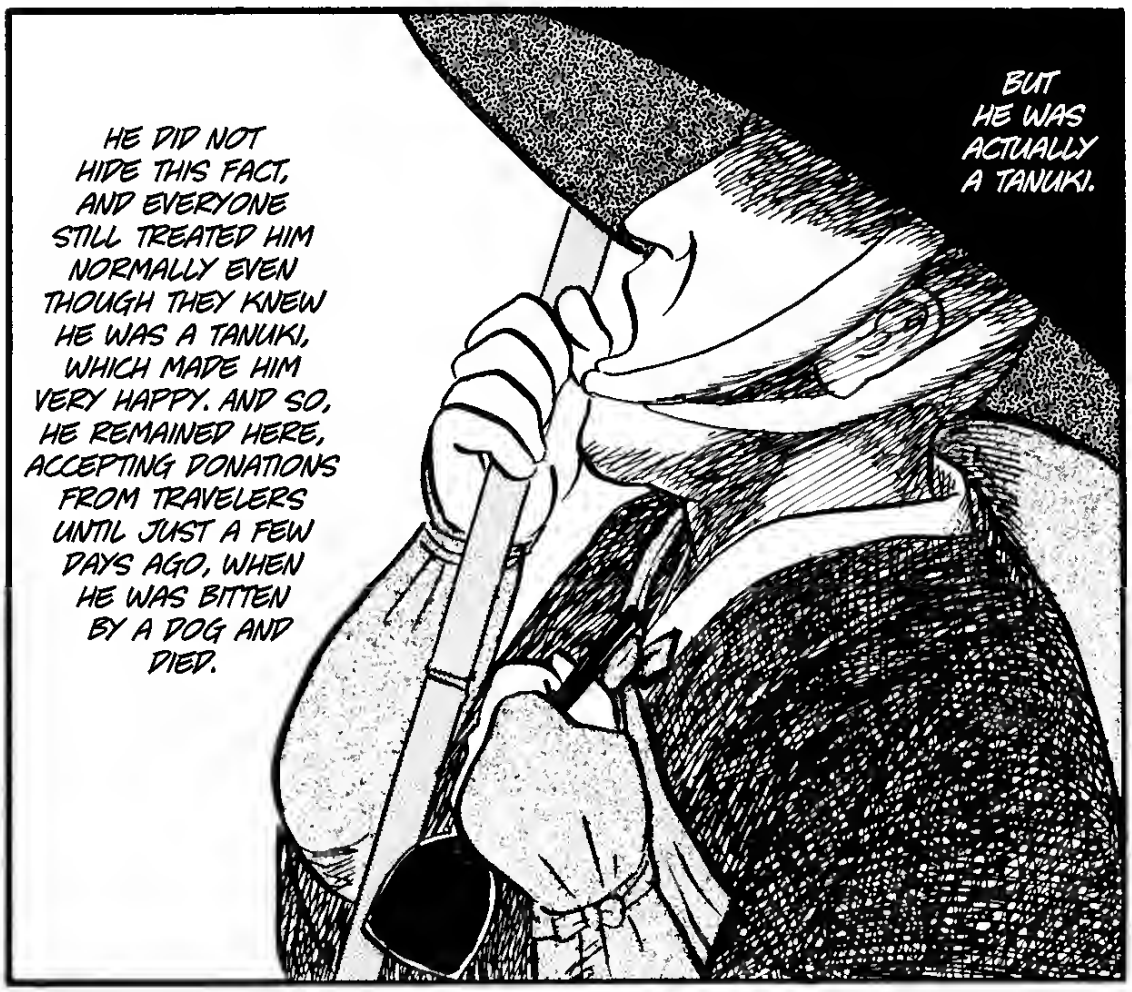

DING
DING
TOK
TOK
DO THEY PLAY DRUMS AT FUNERALS IN THESE PARTS?

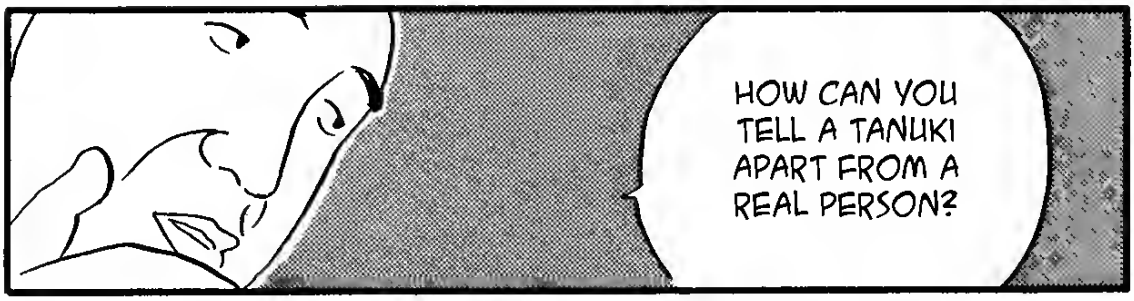
MEANING WHAT?
NO. THEY ONLY DO THAT BECAUSE THE SOUL OF THE DECEASED IS NOT HUMAN.

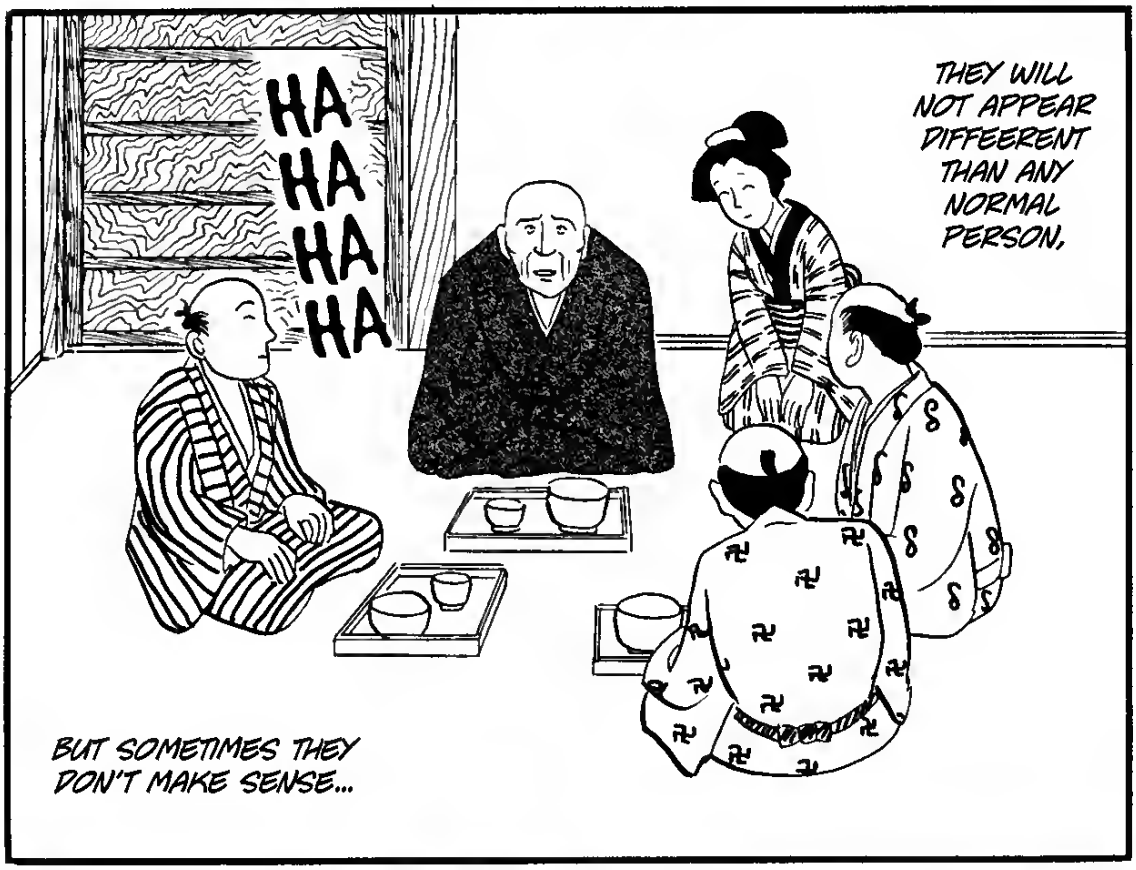

HE IS A TANUKI.

BANNER KENCHO-JI TEMPLE PILGRIMAGE


D
I
N
G
ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO, A TRAVELING MONK STOPPED BY OUR INN. HE SAID HE WAS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO RAISE FUNDS TO CHANGE THE TATAMI MATS AT KENCHO-JI TEMPLE IN KAMAKURA.

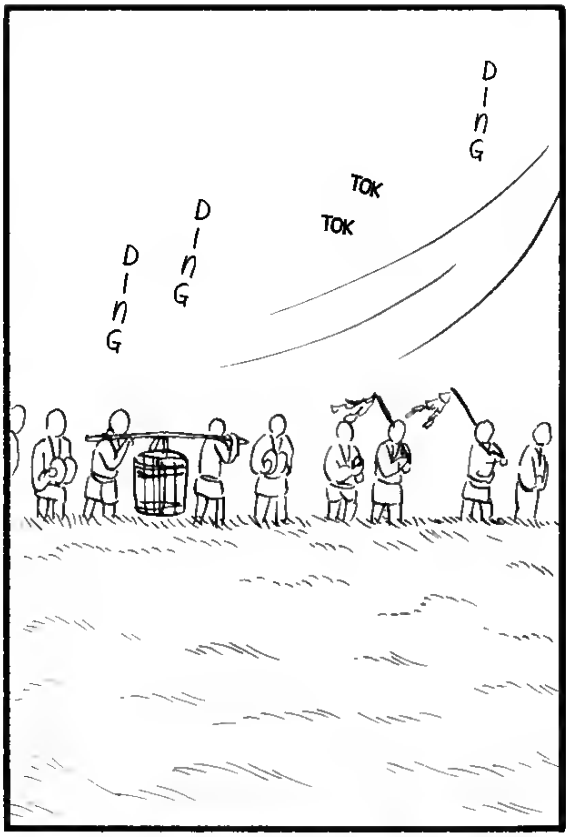

BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY A TANUKI.
HE DID NOT HIDE THIS FACT, AND EVERYONE STILL TREATED HIM NORMALLY EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW HE WAS A TANUKI, WHICH MADE HIM VERY HAPPY. AND SO, HE REMAINED HERE, ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM TRAVELERS UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN HE WAS BITTEN BY A DOG AND DIED.

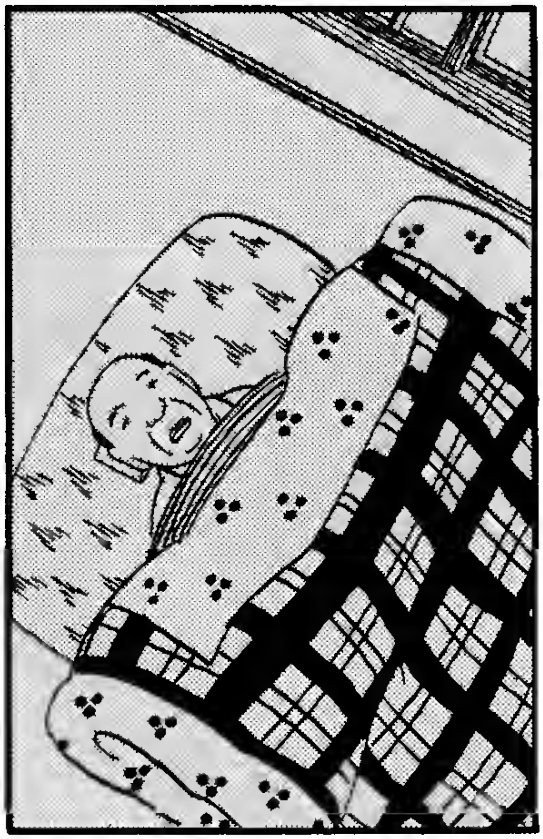

HOW CAN YOU TELL A TANUKI APART FROM A REAL PERSON?

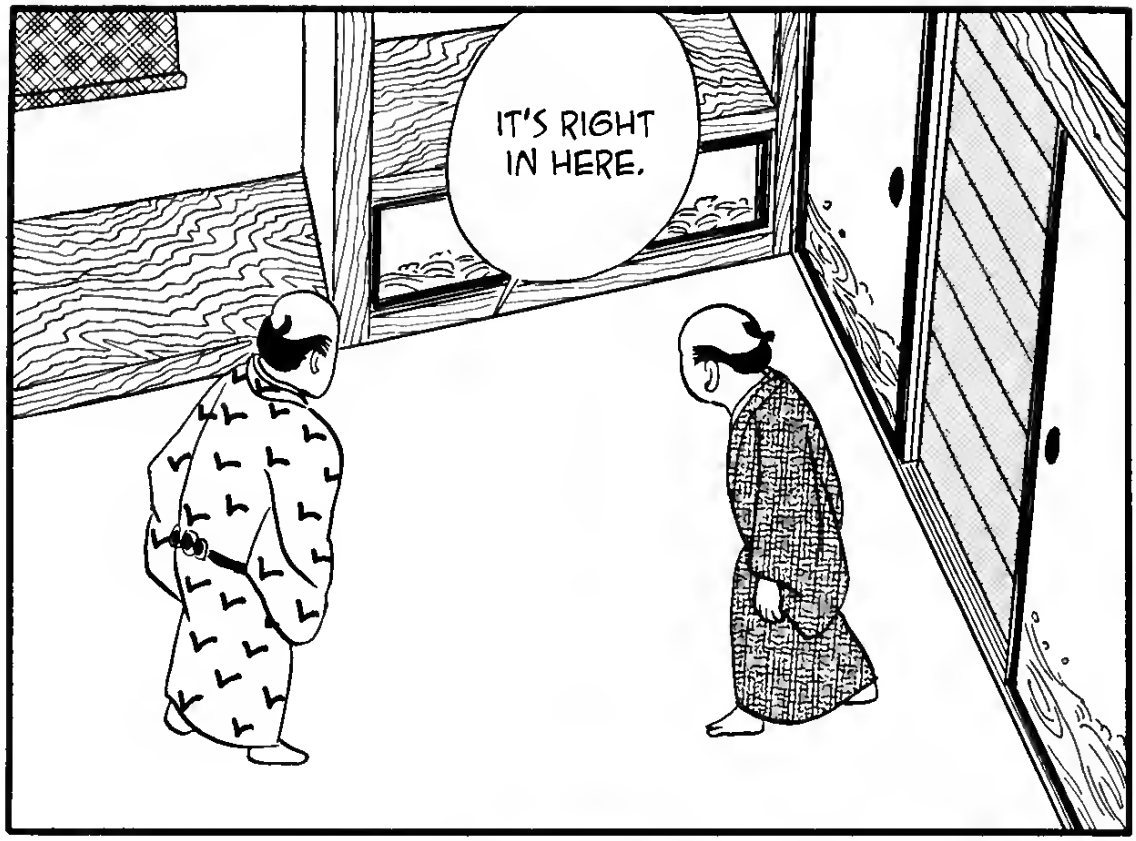

HA HA HA HA
THEY WILL NOT APPEAR DIFFEERENT THAN ANY NORMAL PERSON,
BUT SOMETIMES THEY DON'T MAKE SENSE...

NONE OF WHAT THEY SAY MAKES ANY SENSE.
AND WHEN THEY GET ESPECIALLY EXCITED WHILE TALKING...

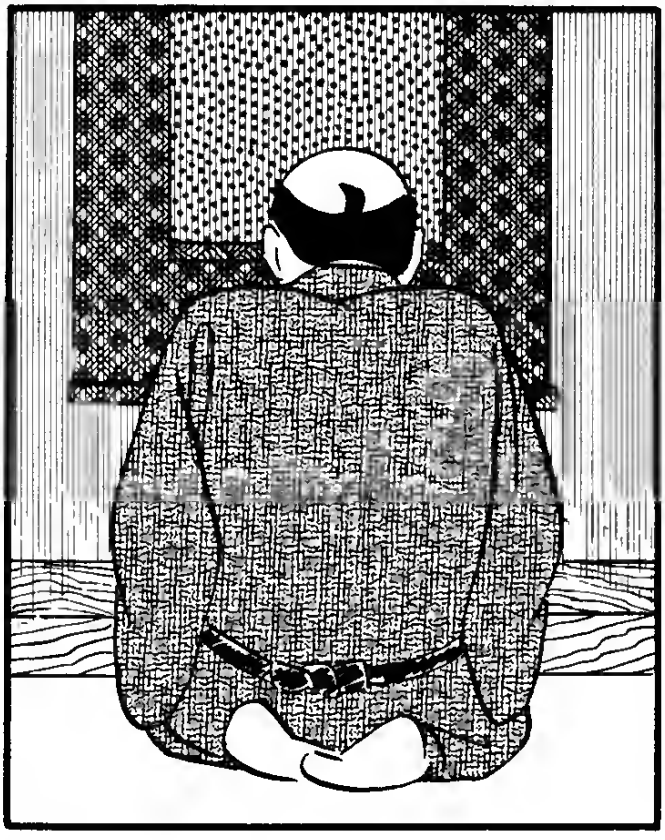
AT THE CHOUKAI INN NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE HIGH ROAD, THERE IS A PICTURE THAT WAS DRAWN OF THAT TANUKI.
I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT.


DING
TOK
TOK
DING
DING




IT'S RIGHT IN HERE.

THE PICTURE WAS A PORTRAIT OF THE HOTEI BUDDHA LAUGHING HEARTILY.



ACCORDING TO THE INNKEEPER, ALL THE MONEY (30 RYO, 5 KAN, AND 200 MON) WAS DONATED TO KENCHO-JI TEMPLE AND USED TO CHANGE ALL THE TATAMI MATS.